

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

Listing of Claims

1-5. (Canceled).

6. (New) An exchange terminating an incoming call to an available telephone with reference to its priority, comprising:

a first table that is operable to be configured to associate phone numbers with their priority;

a waiting table which includes a first predetermined area and a second predetermined area and which is configured to store, with reference to the first table, an incoming call with high priority waiting to be answered into the first predetermined area and an incoming call with low priority waiting to be answered into the second predetermined area; and

a controller configured to control the exchange, wherein if one telephone connected with the exchange becomes available for answering a call waiting to be answered, the controller terminates a call with high priority in the first predetermined area with the one telephone.

7. (New) An exchange terminating an incoming call to an available telephone with reference to its priority, comprising:

a first table that is operable to be configured to associate phone numbers with their priority;

a waiting table which includes a first predetermined area and a second predetermined area and which is configured to store, with reference to the first table, an incoming call with high priority waiting to be answered into the first predetermined area and an incoming call with low priority waiting to be answered into the second predetermined area; and

a controller configured to control the exchange, wherein if the exchange receives an incoming call associated in the first table, the controller references the first table, determines that the priority of the incoming call is high with reference to the first table, and stores the incoming call into the first predetermined area in the waiting table.

8. (New) An exchange according to claim 7, wherein if one telephone connected with the exchange becomes available for answering a call waiting to be answered, the controller terminates a call with high priority in the first predetermined area with the one telephone.

9. (New) An exchange operable to be connected to at least a first telephone group and a second telephone group, both of which include at least one telephone, comprising:

a first table that is operable to be configured to associate phone numbers with the first telephone group;

a second table that is operable to be configured to associate the first telephone group with high priority and to associate the second telephone group with lower priority than the first telephone group;

a waiting table which includes a first predetermined area for the first telephone group and a second predetermined area for the second telephone group and which is configured to store, with reference to the first table, an incoming call waiting to be answered into the first predetermined area or the second predetermined area; and

a controller configured to control the exchange, wherein if one telephone becomes available for answering a call waiting to be answered, the controller terminates a call waiting to be answered in the first predetermined area with the one telephone with reference to the second table.

10. (New) An exchange operable to be connected to at least a first telephone group and a second telephone group, both of which include at least one telephone, comprising:

a first table that is operable to be configured to associate phone numbers with the first telephone group;

a second table that is operable to be configured to associate the first telephone group with high priority and to associate the second telephone group with lower priority than the first telephone group:

a waiting table which includes a first predetermined area for the first telephone group and a second predetermined area for the second telephone group and which is configured to store, with reference to the first table, an incoming call waiting to be answered into the first predetermined area or the second predetermined area; and

a controller configured to control the exchange, wherein if the exchange receives an incoming call associated in the first table, the controller references the first table, determines that the priority of the incoming call is high, and stores the incoming call into the first predetermined area in the waiting table.

11. (New) An exchange according to claim 10, wherein if one telephone becomes available for answering a call waiting to be answered, the controller terminates a call waiting to be answered in the first predetermined area with the one telephone with reference to the second table.

12. (New) An exchange operable to be connected to at least a first telephone group and a second telephone group, both of which include at least one telephone and both of which share at least a first telephone, comprising:

a first table that is operable to be configured to associate phone numbers with the first telephone group;

a second table that is operable to be configured to associate the first telephone group with high priority and to associate the second telephone group with lower priority than the first telephone group:

a waiting table which includes a first predetermined area for the first telephone group and a second predetermined area for the second telephone group and which is configured to store, with reference to the first table, an incoming call waiting to be answered into the first predetermined area or the second predetermined area; and

a controller configured to control the exchange,

wherein if the exchange receives an incoming call associated in the first table, the controller references the first table, determines that the priority of the incoming call is high, and stores the incoming call into the first predetermined area in the waiting table, then if the first telephone becomes ready for answering a call waiting to be answered, the controller terminates a call waiting to be answered in the first predetermined area to the first telephone with reference to the second table.

13. (New) An exchange terminating an incoming call to an available telephone with reference to its priority, comprising:

a first interface configured to be connected to at least a first telephone and a second telephone, both of which belong to a first telephone group;

a second interface configured to be connected to at least the first telephone and a third telephone, both of which belong to a second telephone group;

a first table that is operable to be configured to associate phone numbers with the first telephone group;

a second table that is operable to be configured to associate the first telephone group with high priority and to

associate the second telephone group with lower priority than the first telephone group:

a waiting table which includes a first predetermined area for the first telephone group and a second predetermined area for the second telephone group and which is configured to store, with reference to the first table, an incoming call waiting to be answered into the first predetermined area or the second predetermined area; and

a controller configured to control the exchange, wherein if the exchange receives an incoming call associated in the first table, the controller references the first table, determines that the priority of the incoming call is high, and stores the incoming call into the first predetermined area in the waiting table, then if the first telephone becomes ready for answering a call waiting to be answered, the controller terminates a call in the first predetermined area to the first telephone via the first interface with reference to the second table.

14. (New) An exchange according to claim 13, wherein if the first telephone becomes available for answering a call waiting to be answered, the controller:

(a) references the waiting table,

(b) terminates a call in the first predetermined area to the first telephone if each of the first predetermined area and the second predetermined area in the waiting table has at least one call to be answered.

15. (New) An exchange operable to be connected to at least first and second telephone groups, each of which includes at least one telephone, comprising:

a first table that is operable to be configured to associate phone numbers with a first telephone group which has high priority;

a waiting table configured to store a call waiting to be answered into a first predetermined area related to the first telephone group or a second predetermined area related to the second telephone group which has lower priority than the first telephone group; and,

a controller configured to control the exchange,

wherein if the exchange receives an incoming call, the controller:

(a) references the first table, and

(b) assigns the first predetermined area in the waiting table to the call if no telephone is available and the phone number of the call is in the first table, and assigns the second

predetermined area in the waiting table to the call if no telephone is available and the phone number of the call is not in the first table.

16. (New) An exchange operable to be connected to at least first and second telephone groups, each of which includes at least one telephone, comprising:

a first table that is operable to be configured to associate phone numbers with the first telephone group which has high priority;

a waiting table configured to store a call waiting to be answered into a first predetermined area related to the first telephone group or a second predetermined area related to the second telephone group which has lower priority than the first telephone group; and,

a controller configured to control the exchange,

wherein if a telephone becomes ready for answering a call to be answered, the controller:

(a) references the waiting table, and

(b) terminates a call in the first predetermined area to the telephone if each of the first predetermined area and second predetermined area in the waiting table has at least one call to be answered.

17. (New) An exchange operable to be connected to at least first and second telephone groups, each of which includes at least one telephone and both of which share at least a first telephone, comprising:

a first table that is operable to be configured to associate phone numbers with the first telephone group which has high priority;

a waiting table configured to store a call waiting to be answered alternatively into a first predetermined area related to the first telephone group and a second predetermined area related to the second telephone group which has lower priority than the first telephone group; and,

a controller configured to control the exchange,
wherein if the exchange receives an incoming call, the controller:

(a) references the first table, and

(b) assigns the first predetermined area in the waiting table to the call if no telephone is available and the phone number of the call is in the first table, assigns the second predetermined area in the waiting table to the call if no telephone is available and the phone number of the call is not in the first table, and then if the first telephone becomes available for answering a call to be answered, the controller:

(a) references the waiting table, and

(b) terminates a call waiting to be answered in the first predetermined area to the first telephone if each of the first predetermined area and the second predetermined area in the waiting table has at least one call waiting to be answered.

18. (New) An exchange terminating an incoming call to an available telephone with reference to its priority, comprising:

a first memory section that is operable to be configured to be a first table that is configured to associate phone numbers with their priority;

a second memory section that is operable to be configured to be a waiting table that includes a first predetermined area and a second predetermined area and that is configured to store, with reference to the first table, an incoming call with high priority waiting to be answered into the first predetermined area and an incoming call with low priority waiting to be answered into the second predetermined area; and

a controller configured to control the exchange, wherein if one telephone connected with the exchange becomes available for answering a call waiting to be answered, the controller terminates a call with high priority in the first predetermined area with the one telephone.